

Ref.: MC/SWITZERLAND/2020/16

Geneva, 18 May 2020

Subject: Condolences regarding the passing of Mr. Marc Chardonens, former Head of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and former President of the COP1 and COP2

Dear Ambassador Franz Perrez,

With sadness and honoring the memory of Mr. Marc Chardonens as President of the first and second Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Secretariat would like to pay tribute to the memory of him.

On behalf of the Minamata Secretariat and the Parties, I would like to convey our condolences to the Government of Switzerland, to the bereaved family of Mr. Chardonens, and to you and your colleagues who worked with him so closely.

Mr. Chardonens took up the destiny of our Convention at a crucial time. Throughout his two mandates, he demonstrated great determination to advance the Convention's principles and purposes. He continuously encouraged countries to ensure the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention at the national and international level. And he constantly expressed his appreciation to our Secretariat for its work and to the COP participants for their commitment and efforts to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of mercury.

Mr. Chardonens will remain in the collective memory of our Convention as an experienced statesman who was hoping to reach universal ratification, with a distinct purpose to build this Convention effectiveness, and to make mercury history.

Sincerely,



Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary

To: Franz Xaver Perrez
Ambassador
Head of International Affairs Division
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
3003 Berne, Switzerland
phone: +41 58 462 93 23
fax: +41 31 323 03 49
mail to: franz.perrez@bafu.admin.ch